

RECEIVED

February 17, 2003

FEB 19 2003

Dear Commissioner:

WWW  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

I am writing this letter to express my deep appreciation for your Western Washington Pheasant hunting program. I have participated in this hunt since at least 1965 when it was located on the old McKinnon farm between Snohomish and Monroe.

My three sons learned to pheasant hunt on the release sites, both McKinnons and Cherry Valley. Although we always hunted the Eastside opening week and maybe some weekends, it was the Westside that they really had an opportunity to shoot at birds. All of my boys are now in their 40's and we still hunt together both East and West side. Their love of hunting was a direct result of their experiencing success at the release sites on the Westside.

Last year, as well as other years, I hunted in South Dakota, and Iowa, both of which had excellent hunting for pheasant. Eastern Washington was also hunted, with lots of fun but not many pheasant. When I finished all of these hunts, I could not wait to get back to the Westside release sites. To me, the closeness, the opportunity for birds and being able to go with little planning, makes your Westside hunt far much better than all the others.

I am now 67 years old and I doubt if I will make it out of state or maybe not even Eastside to hunt pheasant again. I should probably feel bad about this, but your Westside hunting opportunities takes the sting out of getting too old to go long distances or hunt all day in tough country. Your senior Westside hunt is an outstanding benefit for the older folks that still have the urge to get out and hunt, but the body is slowing down. I have encountered many seniors out hunting, often with senior dogs, and maybe not getting a lot of birds, but having an outstanding opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and the thrill of the hunt.

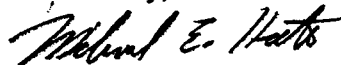
On behalf of those seniors as well as myself, thank you so very much for providing a meaningful opportunity to participate in the outdoors and to make our life more enjoyable and complete. There are a number of seniors that some times disappear between seasons. This is sad to see, but I am so thankful that they had the opportunity to enjoy the thrill of the hunt in their twilight years. For those of us still able to hunt the Westside, thank you again for opportunity to do a hunt that is an ideal fit for our body and stamina.

I would also like to thank you for the opportunity the Westside hunt provides for young people and your early hunt for them is a great opportunity to experience success and the great outdoors. I know the fond memories that I have, as well as my three sons, from the Westside hunting, will always be a major part of our lives. What your Westside

Pheasant hunting has given us, is something money cannot buy. The neat thing is that the memories are still being made as we still participate in the Westside hunt whenever we can.

Thank you again for providing such a wonderful opportunity to learn sportsmanship and the thrill of being outdoors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Hatch". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent and the last name "Hatch" following in a similar style.

Michael E. Hatch  
1620 Park Ave.  
Snohomish, WA.  
98290